

January 6, 1894 Hon. John Virgin is attending a meeting of the state board of agriculture which is trying to decide on a permanent site for the State Fair.

January 13, 1894 Dr. Lewis reported four bed accidents that he had attended.

The Fairbury Fair Directors met: T.A. Beach was made Supt. of Grounds.

Obituaries and weddings are grouped together separately on the first page; locals on the last one.

January 27, 1894 Nellie Harrington and John Eddy were married.

February 3, 1894 Balloon Ascension. They had good weather – clear, not too cold, and with a very mild breeze from the southwest. They started at 4 p.m., after the bag had been swelling at anchor for an hour or so. It was inflated by a fire in a covered trench which carried the heat into the balloon. The goats were harnessed to a small carriage containing pigeons and other fowls. The outfit went up in good shape – nearly straight for a while, and then sailed north. The sand ran out in a stream, and at about 3000 feet up the clock work cut loose, the parachute spread beautifully, and their goatships descended. (“They never turned an eyelash.”) The goats came down in Kring’s nursery, the balloon on A.C. Bartlett’s farm a mile and a half Northeast.

WJ Bethard is succeeding Plympton.

Grandma Wray 102 years old. (Another very nice article.) She belongs to a long lived family. One of her sisters lived to be over 100, and one brother, still living in Michigan, is several years older than she is.

Large full page ad of Bethard’s. Two big footprints at the top over heading. “We are firmly planted in Fairbury.” They are maintaining Plympton’s strictly cash basis.

February 10, 1894 Tom Karnes, postmaster.

The Payson – Oliver Case Decided.

The Payson – Oliver case, the trial of which occupied several days of the court at Pontiac this week, was decided on Saturday. As is well known, the Oliver heirs sought to set aside deeds and conveyances of lands made to Judge Payson by Franklin Oliver in his lifetime, alleging that the conveyances were made without adequate consideration, and that Franklin Oliver was not capable in law to deed away his property. There are over 1000 acres of land in litigation. Judge Bookwalter of Danville, who heard the case, decided every point in favor of Payson, leaving the complainants no ground for action. The testimony was very voluminous, and if the case is appealed, the record will be enormous.

(Poetry is being printed – the homemade kind.)

February 17, 1894 Dr. Lewis 3 ob. One of them was the Hanna twins.

HI Reynolds starts a laundry.

February 24, 1894 The Fairbury Military band gave another of their popular concerts and promenades and skating parties at Mapel Bros. Operal house Monday evening. The program arranged to watch the New Year in. The attendance was large and the skaters had a merry time.

March 3, 1894 The Sherman House is to be conducted by Mrs. Hester Lough.

March 10, 1894 A woodcut by George Decker – the first of a person to be used.

Edith Bartlett born.

March 17, 1894 (A priest was ordained, and the article had a woodcut portrait. It was perfectly horrible – enough to scare the reader to death. The cuts must be home talent of sorts.)

Bethard's is still called the "East End Emporium."

The Fairground is to be rented for pasture.

March 24, 1894 Running and squealing and tussling with young men on the street is very unladylike and improper by night or day. There is an unpleasant amount of such conduct to be seen on the Fairbury streets almost any evening, and, in many cases by young people who pride themselves on their reputation and social standing.

March 31, 1894 (Another of those woodcuts: Tom Karnes, the new postmaster, complete with handlebar moustache.)

The women can vote in the Indian Grove school election. Those desiring to vote furnish their own ballot. It should contain only the name of the candidate, and be deposited in separate boxes provided by the judges.

The Hurly Burly Club of girls, for social enjoyment.

There is a mice machine in Dr. Parson's store window. Crowds gather around it all day, and the gravest man is pretty sure to laugh at the tiny performers and their involuntary antics.

The ball given by the Young Men Catholic Americans was very successful.

April 7, 1894 William Stackpole obituary. "His unconquerable spirit."

April 14, 1894 Brownson and Beers woodcuts. (Br-r-r-r-. Whiskery ones, this time.)

Stackpole card of thanks.

A.F. Filley was thrown from a road cart last Saturday while on a visit to his farm Northeast of town. He was confined to the house several days.

April 21, 1894 John Virgin is thinking of locating in Peoria.

They have a new game in which the young ladies produce photographs of themselves when babies or at a very tender age. They are arranged for inspection, and the young men are ushered in one at a time to guess who are the originals. The one making the most successful guesses wins the prize. It's lots of fun.

C.W. Neitz, Mrs. G.C. Lewis and Cassie Green were on the committee of resolutions at the retirement of Smith Olney as Sunday School Superintendent after almost twenty years.

May 5, 1894 Demorest Medal Contest held by the W.C.T.U. The program was given by Acca Stafford, Berthan and Winnie Patton, Anita Pence, Cora Mahoney and Gertie McDowell. The orators had been drilled by Ollie McKee. Miss Kelly won the oration contest, and the medal was presented by Mrs. G.C. Lewis in a pleasant and appropriate manner.

Walton's have erected a drinking fountain that is much appreciated.

Carrithers is a candidate for County Judge.

The M.E. Sunday School had a book social at Maples Opera House. Thursday Evening. They cleared \$21.00 for their library.

June 9, 1894 Woodcut of Smith Olney. The Former pupils of Smith Olney meet and celebrate.

The mine strike is still running, but it is about ended.

A Notable Business Change

The banking firm of Beach and Dominy, which has carried on the Fairbury Bank for the last 20 years, was formally dissolved last Thursday by mutual arrangement between the partners. Mr. Beach retired at that date from the business which Mr. Dominy, the junior partner, assumed entire control, and which he will carry on without interruption, he assuming all liabilities and becoming owner of all assets. Mr. Beach had contemplated retiring for some time, and finally decided to do so because his large land interests and his other important business matters, are as much as he cares to look after at his age, he being over 65 years old, though still in fair health and vigor. Mr. Beach is the owner of 1680 acres of land in this vicinity besides 2000 acres in Nebraska, and still has plenty to occupy his mind. The firm of Beach and Dominy was organized in 1870 to carry on the hardware business. Four years afterward they entered the banking business which they have ever since carried on, and in which they have made a reputation for absolute soundness, square dealing and liberal conduct toward their patrons, second to none in the state. They have always been the most conservative of financiers, and have deservedly enjoyed to the fullest extent the confidence of the public. The financial storm of last year which wrecked so many banks, only confirmed and strengthened this confidence, and left them, if possible, in a stronger position than before. The withdrawal of Mr. Beach from the partnership will not at all affect the responsibility of the concern, as Mr. Dominy is the fortunate possessor of abundant wealth to secure his patrons several times over. He owns about 1600 acres of good land besides the bank assets, and plenty of other property. F.F. Westervelt, the trusted accountant, will still keep the books. Mr. Beach's influence will remain with the bank.

Woodcut of Judge Carrithers on back page.

Walton's drinking fountain has two spouts and is ice cooled. They are public benefactors.

City Ordinance: Lawns may be watered only between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m.

June 23, 1894 The Blade and Brydia of the Local Record are exchanging swats over the miner's strike.

June 30, 1894 Fred Wermesman was in a bad runaway. Dr. Lewis was called.

Ella Gregg of Pontiac, a school teacher, sister of Emory, was visiting.

Harris Bros., house movers.

July 7, 1894 First reproduction of a photograph.

Miss Lillie Howarth's country school closed June 29th with a grand picnic.

The house in the Northeast part of town owned by Mr. T.A. Beach and occupied by Mr. Keefer, caught fire on the 4th, but was put out by the neighbors, Mrs. Kring raising the alarm with their dinner bell. The cause was unknown.

Ad: Alta Virgin, graduate of Northwestern School of speech, will teach elocution and physical culture.

Teacher's Institute July 23 at Pontiac.

Samuel Dancey is retiring from farming and moving to town.

July 21, 1894 The M.E. Epworth League is four years old. Charles Neits has been the president from the first.

July 28, 1894 Ad: Dr. Presler, Veterinary surgeon.

August 4, 1894 Capt. Fullerton, of Ottawa, Republican nominee for congress, died in his chair in his room at the Thomas House. The cause was heart trouble, and he had been apparently in the best of health. It caused great excitement.

Dr. James F. Fraley obituary.

Mrs. Sarah Beach obituary.

H.F. Beers is secretary of the Fairbury Prohibition Club.

Ad: Dr. Brewer's heart regulator for heart disease. For sale at Wade's. (What a timely ad!)

Hugh Sutton, born.

(The Thomas House was a few hundred feet from the depot.)

August 11, 1894 Sims and Blair Store failure.

Dr. Rayburn has put an electric motor drill in his dental parlors.

The long desired and much talked of 400 feet of new hose for the fire department has arrived. The fire boys are happy, business men breathe easier, and the village board has done well.

Austin Harrington had his leg broken in New York City when a runaway horse threw him against a lamp post. He is now able to get about with a cane. (It wasn't published before as he didn't wish to alarm his mother.)

Ad: The boy stood on the burning deck,
And loudly he did cry-
"Oh, father, buy me Bethard's pants
And death will not come nigh."
Knee pants, 17 cents at Bethard's.

Ad: 22 bars of soap given with each Boss washer. Somers and Kelly.

The colored Baptist camp meeting was quite successful. The acting of the "Prodigal Son" last Sunday was a success, and the fatted calf was duly distributed among the audience.

August 18, 1894 A German Republican meeting at Streator. The speeches were in English and German.

Miss Lila May Cramer has opened a kindergarten in the basement of the Presbyterian Church: 75 cents a week, and the hours are from 9 to 12. She is a graduate of the Indianapolis training school.

Mrs. T.S.O. McDowell, sister of Mrs. Ed. Scibird, is visiting her.

At the circus Tuesday, about twenty of the Fairbury boys were called out of the crowd and ran a race around the circle, the winning boy to have a free ticket to the evening entertainment. The way those kids lit out and humped themselves was one of the best features of the show. George Parsons was the winner.

August 25, 1894 The Blade has new print. It is larger and clearer.

Notice: Subscriber to the M.E. Church. All those having subscribed on my list for repairing the Methodist Church will please call and see me at my office on or before Saturday, September 1, 1894. G.C. Lewis, Solicitor and Collector.

The Blade has had several editorials on the desirability of pure foods.

(Part of a big Fair ad.)

Costly Mercantile Display.

\$1,500 offered for speed.

Wednesday is school children's day. All children under 18 will be admitted free.

Excursion rates on all railroads.

Dr. and Mrs. Lewis and two children witnessed the sham battle of the U.S. Regulars at Evanston last Saturday.

A.B. Claudon bid in the stock of the Sims and Blair business, and has reopened, with Sims as manager.

September 1, 1894 (You wouldn't know the old Blade. Uncle Newt Fulton surely gave it a shot in the arm.)

It Will Be A Hummer

Great Balloon Ascension for the Fair. New improvements. City water on the grounds. Luxuriant shade. Fine seats under cover. Fine exhibits. Good races. Etc.

Ad: Philips will make 14 photographs for \$2.50 during the fair.

The ME Church building has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired. The walls have been replastered and beautifully papered. The Epworth League room has been enlarged and the gallery has been much improved. The old stoves are to be abolished and a good furnace substituted. In order to put in the furnace an excavation 50 x 15 feet had to be dug and much work done besides. The improvement in the appearance of the church is wonderful and the gain in comfort will be great.

Ad: 10 cents for a tablet that weights 18 ox. At Walton's.

A Daily Blade was again issued for the fair.

The McDowell Bros. horse barn was on Third Street, half a block north from Walton's store.

It rained and spoiled Wednesday's fair.

September 8, 1894 The fair was a brilliant success.

President T.A. Beach was always on hand working like a beaver. He makes a good officer.

September 15, 1894 Mrs. Lewis is attending the District W.C.T.U. at Sheldon. (Other delegates were Mrs. Beers, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Stilwell, and Goldie Cook.)

Lew Henderson and Henry Remington are installing electric lights in the ME Church, leaving the oil lamps for emergencies. There are 42 incandescent lamps in the auditorium.

September 29, 1894 George Decker has signed for next season with the Chicago Baseball Club.

October 6, 1894 The Blade has a different news arrangement. Some of the local items are on the first page, and also a couple of the exchanges. (This lasted only a couple of issues.)

Ad: The Terror suit for children at Walton's.

T.A. Beach and Dr. GC Lewis started Tuesday for a tour through the Sough. They go first to New Orleans and will spend a few days along the Gulf. From there they will go to Galveston, Texas, and will visit other points of interest in that state before their return home.

October 13, 1894

Village of Fairbury
Vs.
John Marsh Jr. et al.

The park was marked "Public Square" on the plat of the village filed by the late John Marsh Sr. but the document was formally defective, and there was no regular dedication. The citizens claim a Common Law dedication and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Kerr and Mrs. Stackpole claim that they paid Marsh Sr. an enhanced value for adjoining property because of the representation that it adjoined the park. The defendants do not admit this. They are John L. Marsh Jr., Mrs. CR Fleming of San Diego, Calif., and Mrs. Marsh, their mother.

The Chicago Canal is estimated to cost 22 million dollars.

October 20, 1894 Another Demorest Gold Medal Contest.

Women will vote for the University of Illinois Trustees. They must be 21 years old or more: native born or naturalized, and resident of the state one year, the county ninety days, the ward or school district thirty days. They must register as men do. They will vote in a different ballot box with old fashioned ballots (not Australian), and they will furnish their own ballots.

The Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union has been formed.

Fairbury is to have a Reading Room.

AF Filley went to Chicago Monday to supervise the erection of the stalls for the Fat Stock Show, which will be held in the Tatarsals Building. He will be kept busy until after the show is over, December 1st.

November 3, 1894 Book Auction by Thomas and Strong. Seat provided for ladies.

The Roller Skating Club will use Maple's Hall.

November 10, 1894 The Free Reading Room is now open every day from 2 to 9 p.m. over Weber's Meat Market. A cordial invitation for you to come and read. Sec. of Y.W.C.T.U.

The Blade is having a big popularity voting contest vote in each paper. Among the prizes offered were a lady's bicycle to the most popular daughter of a villager, and a gold watch to the most popular son. Another gold watch went to the most popular daughter of a farmer, and a double buggy harness to the son.

November 17, 1894 Mrs. MA Fugate and sons, Paul and Glenn, of Elba, Nebraska, arrived here Wednesday and are stopping with Mrs. Fugate's sister-in-law, Mrs. AF Filley. The boys will attend school here this winter.

LB Dominy and daughters, Mesdames Herbert Powell, GY McDowell and WR Bane, spent most of the week in Chicago. One pleasant result of the trip is a fine piano for each of the three households, presented by Mr. Dominy with parental compliments.

The express office company has moved into the new Walton building.

November 24, 1894 New Law firm- Carrithers and Agard.

Madame Beckett, hairdresser. Hair cutting and shampooing. Manufactures all kinds of hair goods to order with neatness and taste. Fancy hair jewelry a specialty.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church will serve dinner and supper on Thanksgiving Day in the church basement. Bill of fare: Roast Turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, turnips, onions, chicken salad, doughnuts, Dinner 25 cents, supper 15 cents.

We hear complaints every day from farmers whose teams have been scared by bicycles. A wheelman cannot exercise too much care in meeting a fractious team.

December 1, 1894 D. B. Wilson's shaving parlors are open Sundays. All country people who cannot get in through the week can get their work done Sundays.

A fine hard pine walk is being put down in front of the business houses on the north side of Main Street. It is a much needed improvement. Good walks do much to give a town a good name.

The Home Literary Society has been formed.

Ad: Grant's Memoirs at Walton's.

Mr. and Mrs. JE Bangs were tendered a very handsome reception Thursday evening at the Presbyterian parsonage. The attendance was large.

Street Commissioner Myers ran in a fortune teller on Monday capturing his paraphernalia consisting of a tin box, a couple of dice, an oil cloth, checker board and an empty whiskey bottle.

Members of the Home Literary Society will meet at the home of Ed Cumpston next Thursday evening if weather is favorable, meeting first at the home of Nellie Lewis and going to the country together. In case of unfavorable weather, the meeting will be with Will Barnes. Following is the

program: Original story, Fred Conn; Newspaper, Rose Kilbury; Debate, Resolved that men have done more toward the advancement of civilization than women: Affirmative, Bert Slaughter, negative, Della Steen; Essay, Nellie Freeman; letter, Clark Veatch; answer, Addie Johns; Prophecy, Chas. Fetzer; original poem, Bertha Lynn; character sketch, Winifred Shover; original oration, Will Baylor.

December 8, 1894 The Blade has a new gasoline engine for its presses.

Hi Taylor and family have been having a bad spell of sickness.

With an extra cordon of police on deck Tuesday night in this town Sims and Blair stock was robbed just the same, within a couple of hundred feet of police headquarters.

Olney's autograph album is now at First National Bank, Any old pupils who have not written their names there in will please do so soon. Signed Smith Olney.

The Fairbury Cornet Band serenaded Prof. and Mrs. Bangs Wednesday evening. The boys arrived a little too late for refreshments, but were nicely taken care of at Morris' restaurant.

December 15, 1894 Carrithers and Agard have bought Judge Pillsbury's library.

Gathering locks of young men's hair is the fad among the ladies now.

T.A. Beach bought of John Virgin forty acres half a mile north of town, for \$120.50 an acre. So much activity in real estate at satisfactory figures is an encouraging as an index of improved conditions and a more hopeful feeling.

Report on the Reading Room

It has the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Herald, the Bloomington Pantagraph, New York Herald and Tribune, Ram's Horn, Fairbury Blade and The Fair Dealer. The magazines are Harper's Weekly and Harper's Monthly, Century, Union Signal, Youth's Companion, Demorest, Ladies Home Journal, St. Nicholas, Literary Digest. There are 153 registered readers and 22 books. It is open from 2 to 9 o'clock except Sundays. The rent is \$50.00 a year. The librarian, Ellen Adams, receives \$130.00 a year. Papers and periodicals subscriptions \$50.00. Fuel and light \$20.00. Total \$250.00 for the year. Goldanna Cook, Sec.

Lew Henderson has a couple of boils on his neck. He holds his head to one side to keep out of their way and give them full swing.

Hon. E. Filley, Nebraska, visited his brother, AF Filley and family a few days this week.

Ad: A volume of Grant's Memoirs, leather bound, goes with each suit and overcoat during the holidays at Walton Bros.

Ad: Grant's Memoirs all complete in one volume, cloth bound. Just the thing for your boy, only \$1.00 at Walton Bros.

Ad: The nicest perfect diamond rings at \$10 to \$12.50 you ever saw at Mundt's.

The popularity prizes are on exhibit at the Blade office.

John Milne and Son: cut flowers. Carnations and violets a specialty. Also hot house lettuce and radishes.

Someone burglarized Bethard's store Monday night, getting in by a rear window. All that was missed was an overcoat, a hat and about two dozen woolen socks.

The members of the Home Literary Society will meet at the home of George Ford next Thursday evening, where the following program will be given: Original poem, Della Steen; debate: Resolved that riches have produced more crime than poverty; affirmative, Rose Kilbury and Bert Slaughter; negative, Bertha Lynn and Clark Veatch. A letter, Fred Conn; the answer, Will Baylor; original story, Nellie Freeman; description, Addie Johnson; transposed poem, Winfred Shover.

The West End restaurant has changed hands, Mr. Augspurger having sold out to AC and GW Monroe, of near Wing.

December 29, 1894 Miss Filley entertained a number of young lady friends at her home Wednesday evening.

The Catholic Church authorities in the east are issuing edicts forbidding members from joining the Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance or the Knights of Pythias.

The First National bank, the bank of LB Dominy and Walton Bros. have employed Chris Hahn as night watchman. He will pass from one bank to the other going inside each one in turn and staying 20 minutes at each visit.

January 5, 1895 Protracted Meeting began at the Free Methodist Church Monday night with an old fashioned Watch Night service and is being continued with good interest. All are invited to attend.

Oliver Metz – Emma Witzel married.

The total attendance at the Reading Room for the month of December was 239. Ten books and a number of magazines were presented by interested citizens.

January 12, 1895 Each night next week, Prof. RE Warren, will lecture and give examinations of phrenology. All grown people admitted free; boys under 18 and girls under 14 must pay 10 cents; babies liable to cry, not admitted.

January 19, 1895 Sleighing party to Forrest.

Cap Seems To Fit

A certain alleged newspaperman hereabouts complains that the Blade never mentions him by name. It doesn't have to. Every time the Blade says donkey, the A.N.M. in question brays, "here", and every time the Blade says "skunk" the A.N.M. stinks responsively. For instance, the Blade article of which he complains was about an alleged newspaper man who had been lying about his circulation. Now if the A.N.M in question had not been lying about his circulation, how did he know that the Blade meant him and what call had he to get mad? This A.N.M. is constantly exemplifying the words of the old hymn - - "Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do."

Grace Sharp is the new assistant fourth grade teacher.

Mrs. MA Fugate, and sons, Paul and Glenn departed for Mason City, ILL. Where they will visit a short time before returning to their home in Nebraska.

February 9, 1895 Nettie Lough and Tom Karnes are married.

February 16, 1895 AF Filley is on the Nebraska relief committee.

The Blade wants a new school house on the North side.

They have electric lights at the depot now.

February 23, 1895 The Blade prize winners are announced. Lew Henderson was one of the judges. 34,000 votes were cast. Gertrude Gregg was the most popular grade school teacher. John Carter was the most popular farmer's son. Mrs. Ed. Skinner was the most popular married lady in Pleasant Ridge. Mrs. Lutie Carmon was the most popular married lady in Forrest.

Icie Wilson marries Harry Beers.

The Fair Board met at Dr. Lewis's office. P.C. James was chosen Supt. of Speed, and Mrs. GC Lewis is to have charge of Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture.

March 2, 1895 Winnie Patton marries John Hoker.

March 9, 1895 On March 4, Mona Kring was born, Dr. Lewis attending.

March 16, 1895 The vote on the question of the adoption by Fairbury of the city form of government was not very warmly contested and was too one-sided to cause a great deal of excitement. The vote resulted: For city government, 309, against city government, 113. At the coming city election there will be elected by the people a mayor, city clerk, city attorney, and two alderman from each of the three wards. The school house election Wednesday went through in a manner that showed that the public mind was practically one way. For the proposition to build a new school house, 271: against 47. The new building will be erected on the site of the old north side wooden structure.

AF Filley transacted business in Odell the first of the week.

March 23, 1895 The Board of Trustees has fixed the village wards. First... East of Fifth Street, Second.... West of Fifth Street south of the railroad tracks. Third... West of Fifth Street and North of the railroad tracks. Fourth.... East of Fifth Street and North of the railroad tracks.

Isaac Walton's wife Sarah, died. (Card of thanks) Whole column obituary.

March 30, 1895 (Births given without the doctor again, and under the heading "Births".)

Will Baylor and Miss Acca Stafford are attending the Pontiac Township High School, going on the train each morning and returning each evening.

Alta Virgin has been teaching at Grand Prairie Seminary, Onarga, Illinois.

April 6, 1895 A stinging article on citizens, law abiding otherwise, who violate the liquor licence rules.

Fairbury Banking hours are now 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 13, 1895

Highway Notice

All people are hereby notified not to dump tin cans, chicken feathers, or garbage of any kind on the public highways within the town of Indian Grove. This notice is especially called forth by the conditions existing west of the I.P. McDowell bridge..... Commissioners.

Sealed bids are to be received for the new school building.

(The Blade is definitely out-and-out Temperance.)

April 20, 1895 The Cooperative Coal Co. is furnishing the coal for the reading room.

The Fairbury Cyclers are riding on the newly laid railroad tracks. The dirt between the ties hasn't settled and it is smooth. They ride to Chenoa. Towards Forrest there are too many cattle guards and culverts, and towards Pontiac it is too rough.

P.C. James is a Circuit Court juror.

May 11, 1895 John J. Taylor (of Taylor Bros.) failed in business at an advanced age. He tried to take his own life.

The business houses of Fairbury have agreed to close at 8 p.m. from June 1 to Sept. 1, and at 7:30 p.m. from Sept. 1 to June 1. The closing time is to be made known by a long blow on the electric light plant whistle.

The buildings on the Kuenzi farm burn.

Brydia, of the Local Record, as member of the school board, awarded himself the printing of some school programs, which is against the law. The warning, printed by the Blade, is copied by the Pontiac Leader with comments, and that, in turn, is quoted by the Blade.

May 18, 1895 A freight train backed into a car being loaded with eggs at the Perlee Bros. cold storage plant and broke one thousand dozen of eggs. There were about ten thousand dozen of eggs in the car at the time. No one was in the car at the time, or they might have been killed.

May 25, 1895 Ad: Deering Pony low down binder sold by Walton's.

John Mitten is the head clerk at Walton's grocery.

The commencement exercises were held at the Fairbury opera house on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Tuesday evening's program: Overture, Burch's orchestra; invocation, Rev. SF Sharples; salutatory, Lizzie M. Nimmo; oration, "The conqueror Conquered," Nellie I. Brownson; oration, "Diamonds in the Rough," Lynla L. Oppy; music, orchestra; oration, "The Golden Age of Greece," Frank F. Karnes; oration, "Our National Emblem," Bertha Lynn; oration, "Our American Minnesinger," Bird Werling; oration, "I Had Rather Be Right Than Consistent," Grace E. Steen; oration "I Will" Frances L. Sharples; oration, "Progress, the Result of Unrest," Rosa May Kilbury; benediction, Rev. WL Riley. Wednesday evening: overture, Burch's orchestra; invocation, Rev. HO Hubbard; oration, "The Ideal American Citizen," Mayme Phillips; oration, "Science vs. Poetry," Lilly M. Hahn; class prophecy, Maude Sterling; oration, "Our Inheritance," Lizzie M. Nimmo; music, orchestra; oration, "Influence," M. Floy Stafford; oration, "Cranks," Harry Laubenheimer; oration and valedictory, "WE Must Educate," Lura B. Kirby; awarding of diplomas, TO Cook, president of the board of education; benediction, Rev. Hubbard.

June 1, 1895 Horse thieves stole the horses of A.B. Claudon and J.J. Pence, and the buggy of Dr. H. E. Johnson, and the double harness and buggy tongue of Mr. Claudon. The victims telegraphed ahead to other towns, but the thieves escaped with their booty.

Oliver Payne is a clerk in Parson's drug store.

June 8, 1895 Notice that the fire districts are as they were. Only the voting wards have been changed.

P.C. James made a business trip to Washington Wednesday.

E.A. Agard is a member of the Glass Blowers Union at Streator. (He used to be a glass blower himself.)

June 15, 1895 Lawns may be watered only from 6:30 to 8 a.m., and from 5 to 8 p.m., \$5 fine.

A.F. Filley has 16 acres of fine wheat.

June 22, 1895 Chloe Beach Bartlett Worthington died.

A first page, column-and-a-half article on editor Windle. "Unspeakable school officer", "eaten up with hypocrisy and self conceit", "unspeakable Mr. Windle". Mr. Windle left for Missouri soon after his paper appeared last week and none of his co-laborers would act for him.

June 29, 1895 Everybody is invited to join the parade on July fourth from Livingston Square to the fair grounds. Those in buggies, wagons and on horseback will be welcome in the line. At the fair grounds there will be music by the band, songs by the glee club, Rev. W.L. Riley will offer prayer, Mrs. Carrie Eckhart will read the Declaration of Independence, and the address will be by Rev. E. S. Wilson. In the afternoon the following sports events will be held on Main Street: Men's foot race, in Walton block; egg race, center blocks; sack race, opera house block; tug of war, center block; fat man's race, Walton block; wheelbarrow race, center block. Balloon ascension at 5:30.

July 6, 1895 The Fourth of July racket had been breaking out spasmodically for several days. It commenced in earnest at sundown on the third and the din that broke out after midnight on the morning of the Fourth, made sleep impossible. The racket was composed for the most part of a discordant mixture of the Presbyterian Church bell and all the different kinds of torpedoes and firecrackers.

Wallace Cramer, Harry Streeper, Bert Slaughter and Del Kring attended a social near Pontiac Monday evening, making the trip on their wheels.

Dave Compton was badly burned by the premature explosion of a firecracker. He has a very sore face and arm.

Attorney Herbert Powell made the Fourth of July oration at Oliver's Grove, and was well received by the audience.

Mr. John Worthington has gone back to his children in Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley have guests from New York.

The Democrats meet in Fairbury. "Brydia tried awful hard to make people believe that democrats wouldn't celebrate in a dry town. Notwithstanding his assertions, the smiling countenances of several hundred men who USED to vote with the democratic party were noticeable among the throng that crowded the streets and highways. They didn't look like drinking men, either."

Johnny McDowell was arrested and fined \$5 for riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. The police tried to make him keep it a secret so that they could get others. All authorities denied responsibility. "A piece of official meanness and petty tyranny."

July 13, 1895 L.B. Dominy, Mayor.

Mrs. Gunsalus, wife of the celebrated Chicago preacher, is visiting her foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Long.

All loose dogs will be shot.

July 20, 1895 No Catholic can belong to the Old Fellows, Sons of Temperance, or Knights of Pythias.

First of outdoor Union Church Meetings Sunday evening. The grounds will be electric lighted.

July 27, 1895 A farmer was kicked by a mule. Dr. Lewis was called.

It looks like there would be no electric road through Fairbury.

They are putting in a tile drain east and north of the First National Bank to drain Main Street. It is to be 8 feet down.

McDowell Bros. has a "Carry Eight" for rent.

There was a big crowd at the Union Church Meeting.

August 3, 1895 There is quite a revival of interest in the national game of baseball. The leagues are all doing well and the amateur clubs are numerous. Hereabouts the devotees of the game are especially active. The Fairbury, Forrest, Chenoa, Lexington, Pontiac, Colfax, Chatsworth and other nearby points all have teams and the struggle for supremacy is intense. Fairbury and Normal are to play at the fair grounds today. Dick Thompson and James Baird will be the battery for Fairbury. Walton Bros. are planning on putting in steam to heat the Palace of Trade.

T.A. Beach is building a big oats bin and corn crib in the east part of town.

(Uncle Newt is after hides: Farley, the photographer, this time.)

There are to be bicycle events at the Fair.

August 10, 1895 Bethards are to have a grand opening from 7:30 to 9 o'clock. Burch's orchestra is to play, and there are to be "Aunt Jane" dolls for souvenirs. The store is all redecorated, and a great crowd is expected.

August 24, 1895 The Chicago Clothing Store has Failed. L.B. Dominy is creditor for \$500.

(Note: there have been lots of failures and suicides this past year.)

P.C. James took his trotting horses to the Saybrook Fair.

September 4, 1895 Thomas A. Beach is building a good house on one of his farms north of town.

Ad: Work shirts 25 cents at Walton's.

(Another photo on an article. This is of an actor coming to the Opera House.)

September 7, 1895 T.A. Beach is still Fair president.

Mrs. Hunter Lewis and daughter of Delaware, Ohio, were the guest of J.E. Lewis and the doctor and families.

Suffrage Oratorical Contest at the Opera House. (The Blade named it a worthy cause.)

September 14, 1895 Queen of the Fairs!

Walton's have 8 full page ads and half another page.

Miss Ruth Filley entertained her friend, Miss Grace Strawn, of Marsailles, Illinois, a few days this week.

September 21, 1895 A.F. Filley had an encounter with pickpockets Thursday evening in front of the city Opera House. One of them "swiped" his watch, but Mr. Filley felt the thief in his pocket and struck him, knocking the watch out of his hand, and it was recovered. In the excitement the thief escaped.

September 28, 1895

Cement walks

The city authorities have laid about 1100 feet of cement walks. They would have done more, but the owners disagreed on the width.

Ella Lanfear and H.I. Reynolds wedding.

October 3, 1895 Rev. Edgar Wilson of the M.E. Church is being returned to Fairbury. His biography is given with his picture, the first article of the type.

October 12, 1895 From the Fairbury Journal of June, 1868 and preserved in the Odd Fellows cornerstone. The journalism of that day was trenchant and aggressive. The editor gives it as his emphatic opinion that Fairbury needs a calaboose in which to pack away the drunken nuisances that prowl about the streets. The editor further declares his conviction that if there is any one thing in this town that needs a thorough overhauling it is the lane running past the residence of Uncle John King. Riding through there horseback the other day we came very near getting mired when the other roads were tolerably good. We have heard men who live three or four miles north of this lane say that they preferred to go to Pontiac or Forrest rather than get stuck in the mud almost within the corporate limits of Fairbury. There can be no doubt that our business men lose a vast amount of profitable trade simply on account of this impassable thoroughfare. We must have it fixed. What we need now is gravel.

A new cement walk has been laid in place of the old worn brick one south of the new school house. The school board bears half of the expense.

Biographical sketch of Dr. Parsons with photo. He is the proprietor of the Central Drug Store.

Mrs. A.F. Filley and daughter, Ruth, departed for Nebraska Tuesday where they will visit relatives in Elba and Filley.

October 19, 1895 Odd Fellow Celebration: Three columns on first page. Pictures of officials: W.H. Bailey, E.D. Powell, G.W. Bennett and M.G. Sterling.

The city authorities are putting in a cement crossing across Third Street west of the City Hall. Mr. Bowman does the work free and the city pays for the material. The Square is to be graded up to correspond. If the cement stands the wear and tear at the crossing it will be good.

Ramsey Drug Store sold to Payne and Hemphill.

November 2, 1895 Fairbury has another earthquake.

A businessman will give the lot opposite the John Virgin home for a public library and will contribute \$2000 if the town can raise \$4000. The Blade vouches for his reliability.

A photo is used for an obituary.

November 9, 1895 L.B. Dominy has built a large double corn crib in the west end opposite where the old Livingston House used to stand.

Farleys ads for photographs are now running in the Blade.

November 16, 1895 Jay Tyler has bought Keck's barber shop.

Farms to rent are in great demand.

Ad: "Little Gent's Shoes". Made just like his pa's. — Walton's.

Agard was called to Chicago by the proprietors of a bottle works to arrange with the labor union so that those owners who sell below a living price will not be able to get help. It is the first instance of it's kind, and the result will be of interest in case the experiment is made.

Chris Keck was in business in Fairbury for 15 years.

November 23, 1895 The library is advocated again.

Fairbury has the reputation of being the best show town in this part of the state.

H.B. Taylor is in very bad health.

November 30, 1895 Mrs. A.F. Filley and Miss Filley returned from their Nebraska visit Wednesday.

December 7, 1895 It looks as if the public library was assured.

The Fairbury Anti-Horse Thief Association will meet.

Charles Saunders was kicked by a horse and two ribs were broken. Dr. Lewis was called.

December 21, 1895 Salvation Army Meeting.

Mr. Munz has erected a new ice plant.

Kring Bros. are building two new hot houses with steam heat and all the modern improvements.

December 28, 1895 M. Benham has bought out the Irion Jewelry Store.

The Shakespeare Club has been formed.

The business man desires us to call attention to the gathering of large numbers of young people around the post office, especially during the distribution of the evening mail. It is not that the people who expect mail come and wait for the letters to be distributed, but the post office appears to be a meeting place for young people, girls and boys, the mail furnishing an ostensible reason. It is complained that the crowds are often so dense that people having business cannot get around to see their boxes and the public service is seriously interfered with.